

Notes of the Consultation Response Group meeting held on
Tuesday 14th July 2026 in the Town Council Office, 15 – 17 Temple Street
Keynsham at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs D Biddleston and M Burton

IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Drury – Town Clerk

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Alex Beaumont and Clive Fricker

Meeting inquorate – Only notes taken.

1. STREET STRATEGY CONSULTATION – Responses appended on pages 2 - 7
2. AMENITIES ON THE HIGH STREET STRATEGY CONSULTATION – Responses appended pages 8 - 15
3. BUSKING AND STREET PERFORMANCE CONSULTATION – Responses appended pages 16 – 23
4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that a Doodle Poll will be sent out to ascertain the date and time of the Group's next meeting.

The meeting finished at 3.10 p.m.

Street Strategy Consultation

We are looking for your feedback on our proposed Street Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset.

The policy will set out a clear and consistent approach to how we manage public spaces across the area.

It combines policies, guidance and ways of working into one clear strategy to support vibrant, accessible and well-managed streets.

The Street Strategy is not about one specific activity. Instead, it sets the overall direction and principles for managing our streets.

About you

Tell us about yourself and why you are responding to this consultation.

What is the basis of your interest in this consultation?

Please select all that apply

I'm a resident

I'm a student

I'm a visitor

I'm a representative of a local community group or residents' association

I'm a representative of a parish council

I own or manage a local business within the city of Bath

I own or manage a local business within the district of B&NES (excluding city of Bath)

I'm an employee of a local business within the district of B&NES

Other...

Please tell us which organisation you are responding on behalf of

How did you hear about the consultation?

Please select all that apply

Council website

Word of mouth

E-connect Newsletter

Local library

One Stop Shop (Bath)

Attending a stakeholder meeting

Social media

Other...

Please select the ward you live or work in (or are most familiar with, if you're responding as a visitor)

Overall support

To what extent do you agree with the statement: "I support the adoption of a single Street Strategy."

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Comments: Keynsham Town do support the adoption of a single street Strategy. Our Council would like the Keynsham High Street pedestrianised so that our

community can take advantage of such a Strategy. However, prior to any pedestrianisation we would expect a period of traffic monitoring to be undertaken to ensure that traffic could cope without being able to access the current section of High Street with its cycle lane.

Clarity of purpose

To what extent do you agree with the statement: "The Strategy is clear about what it is trying to achieve."

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

Please add any comments you'd like to make on the Strategy's clarity of purpose.

Comment: It is not clear where the Strategy is referencing Bath only and where the Strategy extends to also include other Towns and Parishes within Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Scope

How do you feel about the scope of the Strategy?

It's much too broad

It's a bit too broad

It's about right

It's a bit too narrow

It's much too narrow

If you're unhappy with the scope of the Strategy, please say what you think should be added or removed (optional)

Comments: Once again, it is not clear whether it is reference Bath alone or Bath and North East Somerset as a whole. The way it reads does not come across as inclusive of all Parish and Town Council areas.

The events section makes reference to Martyn's Law and the Strategy may need updating to include mention of this.

In the Events and Film section there is no reference to Remembrance Parades which are managed differently across the Authority. Larger Town's providing a large parade to commemorate the occasion annually.

Strategic principles

How important should each of these principles be in the Street Strategy?

Rate the importance of each principle

Questions	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Less important	Not important
Safety and accessibility for everyone using streets and public spaces	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Less important	Not important
Supporting economic vibrancy and animation of public spaces	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Less important	Not important

Questions	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Less important	Not important
Protecting heritage, townscape and the quality of the public realm	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Less important	Not important
Sustainability (climate and nature ambitions reflected in street management)	Very important	Quite important	Neutral	Less important	Not important

Priority

Priorities will sometimes conflict. Which statement best reflects the direction the Street Strategy should take?

Prioritise active use: focus heavily on making it easier to host events, support businesses, and encourage new activities

A balanced approach: weight new activities and local protection equally on a case-by-case basis

Prioritise protection: focus heavily on safeguarding peace, public access, and the existing community environment

Not sure

What do you think should come first when there is a clash? (optional)

Prioritise active use: focus heavily on making it easier to host events, support businesses, and encourage new activities

Comment: Pedestrianise more High Streets

Deliverability

What should "success" look like 12 to 18 months after the Strategy is adopted?

Comments: Introduction of pedestrianisation of Keynsham High Street. Ensuring that there is sufficient support for event organisers. Regular communication between the events team and the event organiser.

What does "success" look like to you?

Comments:

Less restrictive on the use of High Streets without compromising safety.

Get rid of excessive levies for street closures

Provide better access to our High Streets

Amenities on the Highway Consultation

Use this page to find out more about and respond to our Amenities on the Highway Policy consultation

Since the Covid-19 lockdowns that took place from 2020, communities and businesses, especially in the hospitality sector, have increasingly used outdoor public space.

They have created outdoor environments where people can eat, drink and enjoy the atmosphere of the city. They also use freestanding items, such as advertising A-boards, planters and display stands on pavements and roads (spaces which we term 'the highway' in this policy).

When well-managed, this has helped create more vibrant streets and supported local business and economic recovery. However, it also places pressure on limited public space.

As the use of public space grows, it's important to balance business activity with accessibility and safety. Footways must continue to be safe, accessible and inclusive for everyone. Highways (meaning roads or streets, as well as footpaths, verges and public spaces) exist primarily for safe public movement, so this must remain the priority.

What we're consulting on

We are introducing a policy to manage freestanding items on the highway. It will support vibrant, active streets while protecting safe and inclusive access for all.

It forms part of the wider [Street Strategy](#), which brings together how different street activities are managed in a co-ordinated, fair and accessible way.

We are consulting on the proposed Amenities on the Highway Policy, which sets out how we will manage freestanding items placed on the public highway, such as A-boards and planters, linked to nearby premises.

The policy sets out:

- the types of items covered
- the principles that will guide decision-making
- how we'll prioritise accessibility, equality and safety
- how we'll manage limited public space fairly and consistently

We want to know whether our proposed approach is clear, fair and workable. We will take into account the need to reduce barriers and avoid disadvantage, particularly for people with disabilities and access needs.

Some aspects of highway management are set by law and cannot change. This consultation focuses on areas where we have discretion, including how we apply the policy in practice.

Who we're consulting

We would like to hear from:

- residents
- local businesses and business employees
- pedestrians and shoppers
- people with access needs
- focus groups and representatives for people with access needs
- community groups and residents' associations
- parish and town councils
- visitors to the area
- event organisers
- older people
- parents and carers
- emergency services

- Council services: Highways, Waste, Cleansing, Regeneration, Capital Projects

About you

Are you responding to this consultation as:

Resident

Local business owner

Employee of a local business

Visitor

Representative of a local community group or residents' association

Representative of a parish or town council

Representative of a disability or access group

Other

Student

How did you hear about this consultation?

Council website

Email newsletter

Social media

Word of mouth

Posters or leaflets

Local media

Other

**To help us understand representation across the area, please select your ward.
If you are unsure, please provide your postcode. If you are responding from
outside Bath & North East Somerset, please state your area.**

Your ward

Or enter your postcode (if you are unsure of your ward)

Your views on the proposed policy

Before taking part in this consultation, how familiar were you with the placement of freestanding items (such as A-boards and similar amenities) on the public highway?

Very familiar

Fairly familiar

Not very familiar

Not at all familiar

In your view, do freestanding items placed on the public highway generally have a positive, negative or mixed impact on public spaces?

Mainly positive

A mix of positive and negative

Mainly negative

Not sure

Please tell us more about your answer (optional)

Accessibility and shared use of space

Have you experienced or observed difficulties caused by freestanding items on footways or public spaces?

Yes

No

Not sure

Comment: Not in Keynsham

To what extent do you agree that the current arrangements effective in preventing freestanding items from creating barriers to movement?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please describe any issues you experience or observe (optional)

Comment: So long as the freestanding item is in a state of good repair or over-sized.

Managing public space

To what extent to do you agree that we should have a policy to manage freestanding items placed on the public highway?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please tell us more about your answer (optional)

Comment: Such Policy should detail that freestanding items should be state of good repair, not over-sized and should clearly state where and where they are not premitted.

What impact would clearer and more consistent rules have on how freestanding items like A boards and other free-standing items are managed on the public highway?

It would make management better

It would make management worse

It would make no difference

Not sure

Please tell us more about your answer (optional)

Comment: Who is going to enforcement this outside BATH?

Managing public space

To what extent do you agree that we should have a policy to manage freestanding items placed on the public highway?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please tell us more about your answer (optional)

Comment: We thought that there was already a Policy on this?

What impact would clearer and more consistent rules have on how freestanding items like A boards and other free standing items are managed on the public highway?

It would make management better

It would make management worse

It would make no difference

Not sure

Please tell us more about your answer (optional)

Implementation and governance

To what extent do you agree that it is important that any new policy is introduced with clear guidance and a reasonable transition period for existing items?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

To what extent do you agree that there should be clear and accessible ways for the public to raise concerns about freestanding items that affect safety or accessibility?

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

If you wish, please add any comments (optional)

Final comments

Is there anything else you would like us to consider when developing the Amenities on the Highway policy?

This may include suggestions to improve accessibility, reduce barriers to movement, or improve fairness and consistency in how public space is managed.

Comments:

Pavement Parking in Bath is bad. Poor parking on pavements is impacting on accessibility of footpaths which are impacted further by poorly placed A boards

Busking and Street Performance Consultation

We are looking for your feedback on our proposed Street Strategy for Bath & North East Somerset. This consultation specifically concerns parts of the strategy about busking and street performance.

As part of the Street Strategy, we are reviewing our Guide to Busking and Street Performance in Bath, published in 2016. This supports our wider aim to create lively, inclusive and well-managed public spaces, and ensures busking and street performance are supported in a way that balances their cultural and economic value with the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

We want your views on whether any changes are needed to our guide, to help shape our future approach.

About you

Tell us about yourself and why you are responding to this consultation.

Are you responding to this consultation as:

Please select all that apply

Resident

Student

Busker and/or Street performer

Visitor

Representative of a local community group or residents' association

Representative of a parish council

Representative of a busking and/or street performer group

Local business within the city of Bath

Local business within the district of B&NES (excluding city of Bath)

Employee of a local business within the district of B&NES

Other

How did you hear about the consultation on the Busking and Street performance guide?

Please select all that apply

Council website

Word of mouth

E-connect newsletter

Traditional media e.g. posters, leaflet, newspaper, radio, notice boards etc.

Local library

One Stop Shop (Bath)

Attending a stakeholders meeting

Social media

Other

Please select your ward

Your views

This section is for residents, businesses, visitors and other users (not buskers/street performers).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Within Bath and North East Somerset District buskers and street performers contribute to the city's culture identity and experience"

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please tell us why you have made your choice – 250 words max.

Comments: What about the Buskers and Street Performers contributing to the Parish and Town's of Bath and North East Somerset Council culture identity and experience?

Please tell us about your experience associated with buskers and/or street performers

Questions	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Their selected pitch/location	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Time of performance	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable

Questions	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Duration of performance	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Repeated music songs within the performance	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Volume of music – Too loud	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Volume of music – Bass	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Type of music	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Type of lyrics	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable

Questions	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Frequency of buskers at a specific pitch/location	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable
Obstruction of equipment on the highway	1 - No impact / very enjoyable	2 - Minor impact / fairly enjoyable	3 - No impact / neutral	4 - Minor impact / fairly unenjoyable	5 - Major impact / very unenjoyable

Other (please specify) - 200 word(s) remaining

Comment: Places like Keynsham have Buskers and Music Performers too so why is the consultation references mainly about Bath. Keynsham Town Council found it difficult to get permission to site our community piano outside the Library on Market Walk in Keynsham. However, it seems that there is not a problem in Bath where such is permitted and piano music is allowed and enjoyed.

Impact

Please explain how street performers and/or buskers impact positively or negatively on your quality of life/business? N/A

250 word(s) remaining

Have you approached a busker/street performer regarding their performance?

Yes

No

They are always polite and approachable

What expectations should be set around the use of amplification used as part of busking and street performance?

Please select all that apply

Set a maximum volume

Set a distance where the volume can't be heard e.g. 20 meters

Require buskers to use an amplification limiter

No amplification (amps/speakers)

Restricted amplifiers to certain areas

Restrict amplifiers to certain times

Limit the number of times per day the same performer can return to the same pitch/location

Other

Please tell us which of these would be most important to you

Comments: Allowing more frequent street Markets that have different types of customers where buskers with different genres of music can be invited along to entertain.

Council approach

The performers' guide recommends a maximum of one hour at a pitch. Do you think that this is a reasonable amount of time?

Yes

No

The current performance times are between 10:00 to 20:00 hours. Do you feel these hours need to be changed?

Yes, earlier

No, remain the same

Yes, later

Page 6 of the guide explains the Traffic Light System used around the Bath Abbey. Is the traffic light system clear and understandable to use?

Yes

No

Comment: What is this?

Are you aware of the Council's Environmental Protection Team and their role in the investigation of complaints, for example noise from buskers and street entertainers?

Yes

No

Please tell us any other locations within Bath & North East Somerset district that in your opinion would be suitable to undertake busking or street performances

Locations

Keynsham

General questions

Were you aware of the Bath and North East Somerset Council's Guide to Busking and Street Performance before the consultation?

Yes

No

How do you think the Council could introduce, educate and raise awareness of the updated/revised guide?

Please select all that apply

Attend a Busker meeting

Share a copy with local Buskers

Ensure a copy of the guide is on the Council website

Share a copy with the local businesses

Share a copy with Bath Business Improvement Development

Other

The Guide to Busking and Street Performance currently focuses on Bath. The council propose to implement the revised guide across Bath and North East Somerset district to ensure a consistent approach. Do you agree with this approach?

Yes – Guide to be applied across the district

No – Focus on the City of Bath only

No – Focus on City of Bath and Towns e.g. Saltford, Keynsham, Midsomer Norton, Radstock

Other

Comment: Yes but do consult with the Parish and Town Councils and their Community Groups so that they fully understand the guidelines. There would be many Buskers and Performers that would come forward from local music groups, performers and entertainers.